

Michael J. Fitzmaurice

South Dakota Veterans Home

Hot Springs, South Dakota

The Dakota Territorial Legislature met in February 1889. While in session, they passed a bill establishing the Dakota Soldiers' Home to be located in Hot Springs, South Dakota. The bill carried an appropriation of \$45,000 for construction. The object of the Home was to provide the care and subsistence for veterans and their wives and widows who met eligibility requirements for admission to the Home. The cornerstone of the first building was placed on November 11, 1889. This building remains in service and houses the Home's administrative offices and recreational facilities.

The State Veterans' Home grounds cover approximately 193 acres. This offers a serene setting carved out of the beautiful southern Black Hills. By preserving the old and adding conveniences of the new, a true home environment exists. The four major structures are for residents along with a central heating plant, laundry and maintenance shop.

The Veterans' Home recently remodeled the 52 nursing home rooms and dining facility. The rooms and surrounding support areas are up to standards of the American with Disabilities Act and current nursing home regulations. The three dining areas have been consolidated to one allowing nursing care residents a very positive dining experience. The two kitchens have been combined to one efficient modern one.



The home offers the following services: dietician, pharmacist, physical therapist, occupational therapist, physician, chaplain, social services and extensive activities, including a tour bus and pontoon boat.



Memorial Day, 2004

The Veterans' Home has 100 assisted living beds and 52 nursing care beds. Applications for admission are made through the veteran's County or Tribal Veterans Service Officer in the county in which they claim legal residence. The Home's maintenance fees for a single veteran, widow or widower in assisted living units is 50 percent of the gross monthly income, not to exceed actual costs of care. Married couples who are Home members pay 55 percent of the combined gross monthly income. Single members pay 70 percent of the gross monthly income for care in the nursing care units. An assisted living resident retains a minimum income of \$175. Members in the nursing care unit retain a minimum income of \$150 per month, and married couples retain a minimum of \$225.



**Residents and Staff at a
'Support the Troops Rally'
in March, 2003**

On October 3, 1998, the Home was renamed the Michael J. Fitzmaurice South Dakota Veterans Home in honor of a Vietnam War Congressional Medal of Honor recipient.



Michael J. Fitzmaurice Metal of Honor Monument